

GEONETCast Americas:

Complementing other components to provide near-global coverage to more effectively manage a world of resources

In recent years, scores of satellites and thousands of sensors on land, in the sea, and in the atmosphere have been deployed to gather environmental information. As a milestone in the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), GEONETCast is helping to make this vital information more available around the globe, transmitting information on climate, crops, water quality, air pollution and more.

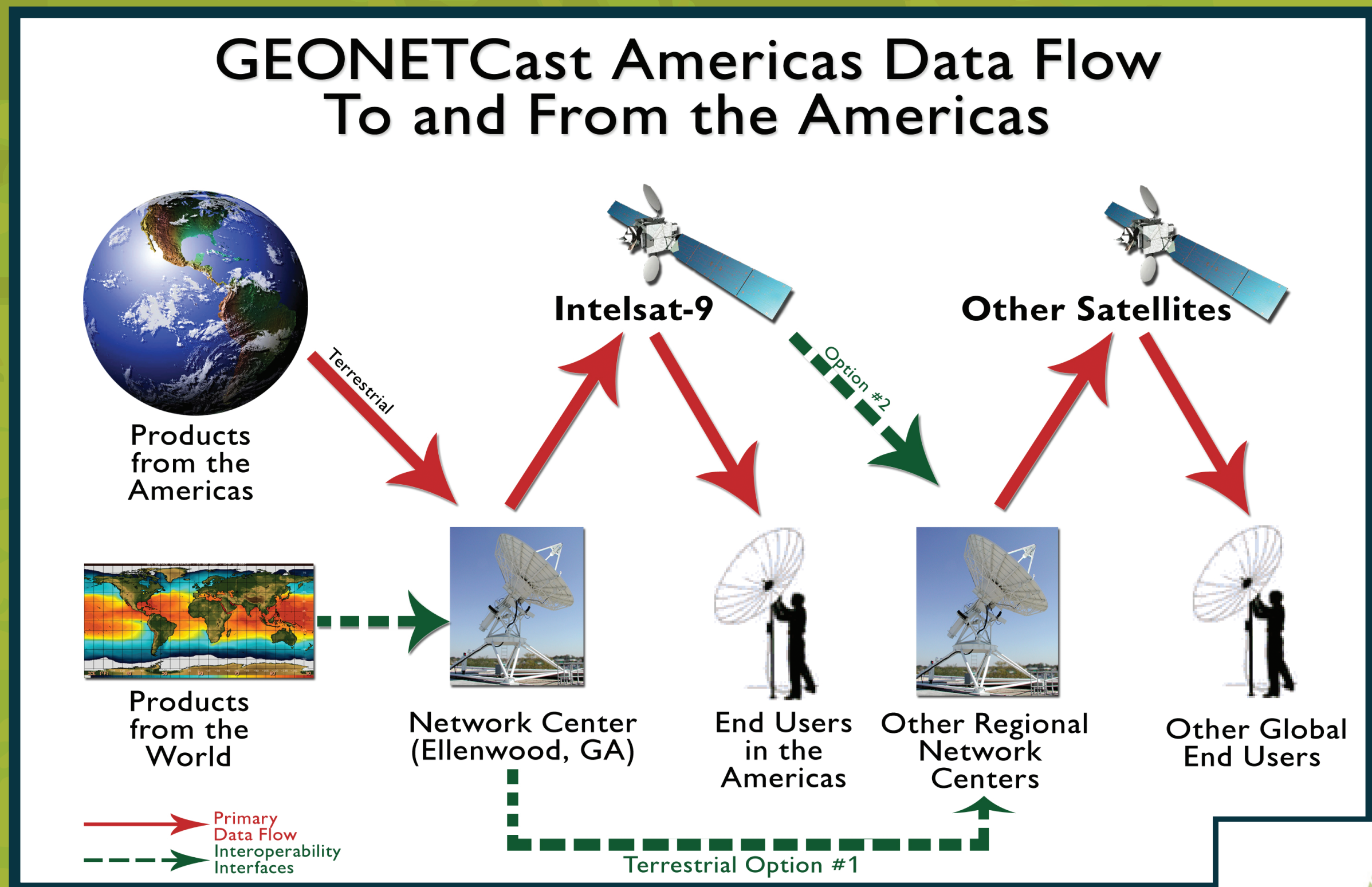
The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded a commercial services contract to enable expansion of GEONETCast into the Americas. Having GEONETCast Americas in place will provide an alternative means of distributing data and other information about the Earth's changing environment to users, particularly those in developing countries.



As a low-cost, global environmental information delivery system by which satellite and *in situ* data and services from GEOSS are transmitted to users through communications satellites, GEONETCast offers near-global coverage. Using a multicast, broadband capability, GEONETCast provides information essential to protecting lives. It allows for faster decision-making and policy response.

Communication satellite providers broadcast using a standard protocol interface. Different data streams or products could be available on separate channels. The user determines which data are to be received, managed and saved locally. No Internet connection is required. The receiving station is simply a standard personal computer, an off-the-shelf satellite television dish, and a few computer cards.

The total cost... around 1500 euros or 2000 dollars. The result is expanded, worldwide dissemination of urgently needed environmental data to users located just about anywhere on the planet—automatically—24 hours a day.


The communication satellite for each sector of the globe is provided by one or more GEONETCast partners. Current coverage is based on contributions from the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Chinese Meteorological Administration. Russia has indicated interest in providing coverage in Eurasia. As a GEONETCast partner, the World Meteorological Organization contributes its experience in coordinating globally interoperable telecommunication systems for weather-related information.





GEONETCast Americas

Delivering Environmental Data to Users Worldwide

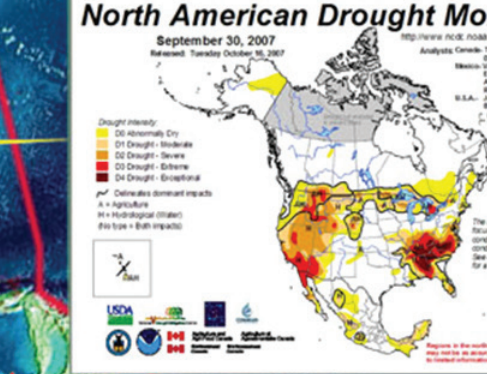


GEONETCast Americas Receiver Station

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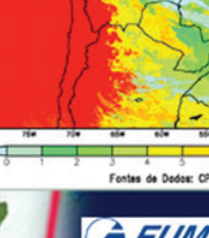


North American Drought Monitor

NOAA's Aqua True Color Daily Fire Image over Guatemala

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